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SENATE BILL 5395

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Long, Constantine and Kline; by request of Administrator for the Courts

Read first time 01/22/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to the administrator for the courts; amending  
2 RCW 2.56.010, 2.56.020, and 2.56.030; and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.56.010 and 1984 c 20 s 1 are each amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 There shall be a state office to be known as the office of  
7 administrator for the courts who shall be appointed by the supreme  
8 court of this state from a list of five persons submitted by the  
9 governor of the state of Washington, and shall hold office at the  
10 pleasure of the appointing power. ~~((He shall not be over the age of  
11 sixty years at the time of his appointment. He shall receive a))~~  
12 The administrator's salary ~~((to))~~ shall be fixed by the supreme  
13 court.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.56.020 and 1957 c 259 s 2 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 The administrator for the courts, with the approval of the  
17 chief justice of the supreme court of this state, shall appoint

1 and fix the compensation of such assistants as are necessary to  
2 enable (~~((him to perform))~~) performance of the power and duties  
3 vested in (~~((him. During his term of office or employment, neither~~  
4 ~~the administrator nor any assistant shall engage directly or~~  
5 ~~indirectly in the practice of law in this state))~~) the office of  
6 administrator for the courts.

7       **Sec. 3.** RCW 2.56.030 and 1997 c 41 s 2 are each amended to read as  
8 follows:

9       The administrator for the courts shall, under the supervision  
10 and direction of the chief justice:

11       (1) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in  
12 the offices of the judges, clerks, stenographers, and employees of  
13 the courts and make recommendations, through the chief justice,  
14 for the improvement of the same;

15       (2) Examine the state of the dockets of the courts and  
16 determine the need for assistance by any court;

17       (3) Make recommendations to the chief justice relating to the  
18 assignment of judges where courts are in need of assistance and  
19 carry out the direction of the chief justice as to the assignments  
20 of judges to counties and districts where the courts are in need  
21 of assistance;

22       (4) Collect and compile statistical and other data and make  
23 reports of the business transacted by the courts and transmit the  
24 same to the chief justice to the end that proper action may be  
25 taken in respect thereto;

26       (5) Prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations  
27 necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system  
28 and make recommendations in respect thereto;

29       (6) Collect statistical and other data and make reports  
30 relating to the expenditure of public moneys, state and local, for  
31 the maintenance and operation of the judicial system and the  
32 offices connected therewith;

33       (7) Obtain reports from clerks of courts in accordance with law  
34 or rules adopted by the supreme court of this state on cases and  
35 other judicial business in which action has been delayed beyond  
36 periods of time specified by law or rules of court and make report  
37 thereof to supreme court of this state;

1 (8) Act as secretary of the judicial conference referred to in  
2 RCW 2.56.060;

3 (9) Submit annually, as of February 1st, to the chief justice,  
4 a report of the activities of the administrator's office for the  
5 preceding calendar year including activities related to courthouse  
6 security;

7 (10) Administer programs and standards for the training and  
8 education of judicial personnel;

9 (11) Examine the need for new superior court and district judge  
10 positions under a weighted caseload analysis that takes into  
11 account the time required to hear all the cases in a particular  
12 court and the amount of time existing judges have available to  
13 hear cases in that court. The results of the weighted caseload  
14 analysis shall be reviewed by the board for judicial  
15 administration which shall make recommendations to the  
16 legislature. It is the intent of the legislature that weighted  
17 caseload analysis become the basis for creating additional  
18 district court positions, and recommendations should address that  
19 objective;

20 (12) Provide staff to the judicial retirement account plan  
21 under chapter 2.14 RCW;

22 (13) Attend to such other matters as may be assigned by the  
23 supreme court of this state;

24 (14) Within available funds, develop a curriculum for a general  
25 understanding of child development, placement, and treatment  
26 resources, as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of  
27 relevant statutes including chapters 13.32A, 13.34, and 13.40 RCW,  
28 cases, court rules, interviewing skills, and special needs of the  
29 abused or neglected child. This curriculum shall be completed and  
30 made available to all juvenile court judges, court personnel, and  
31 service providers and be updated yearly to reflect changes in  
32 statutes, court rules, or case law;

33 (15) Develop, in consultation with the entities set forth in  
34 RCW 2.56.150(3), a comprehensive statewide curriculum for persons  
35 who act as guardians ad litem under Title 13 or 26 RCW. The  
36 curriculum shall be made available July 1, 1997, and include  
37 specialty sections on child development, child sexual abuse, child  
38 physical abuse, child neglect, clinical and forensic investigative

1 and interviewing techniques, family reconciliation and mediation  
2 services, and relevant statutory and legal requirements. The  
3 curriculum shall be made available to all superior court judges,  
4 court personnel, and all persons who act as guardians ad litem;

5 (16) Develop a curriculum for a general understanding of crimes  
6 of malicious harassment, as well as specific legal skills and  
7 knowledge of RCW 9A.36.080, relevant cases, court rules, and the  
8 special needs of malicious harassment victims. This curriculum  
9 shall be made available to all superior court and court of appeals  
10 judges and to all justices of the supreme court;

11 (17) Develop, in consultation with the criminal justice  
12 training commission and the commissions established under chapters  
13 43.113, 43.115, and 43.117 RCW, a curriculum for a general  
14 understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity and its  
15 implications for working with youth of color and their families.  
16 The curriculum shall be available to all superior court judges and  
17 court commissioners assigned to juvenile court, and other court  
18 personnel. Ethnic and cultural diversity training shall be provided  
19 annually so as to incorporate cultural sensitivity and awareness  
20 into the daily operation of juvenile courts statewide;

21 (18) Authorize the use of closed circuit television and other  
22 electronic equipment in judicial proceedings. The administrator  
23 shall promulgate necessary standards and procedures and shall  
24 provide technical assistance to courts as required;

25 (19) Periodically undertake an assessment of the unmet civil  
26 legal needs of low-income people in the state, including the needs  
27 of persons who suffer disparate access barriers, and develop a  
28 funding plan to meet the civil legal needs of such persons. The  
29 assessment should be conducted in consultation with the Washington  
30 state bar association and the access to justice board;

31 (20) Administer state funds as may be appropriated for  
32 improving the operation of the courts and provide support for  
33 court coordinating councils, under the direction of the board for  
34 judicial administration.

35 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The sum of five hundred thousand dollars,  
36 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the  
37 biennium ending June 30, 2003, from the public safety and

1 education account to the office of administrator for the courts,  
2 under the direction of the board of judicial administration,  
3 solely for the support of court coordinating council planning  
4 activities.

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